(c) The details of earnings made by State Pavillions and their utilisation are not maintained, separately by ITPO.

(d) The Railway's share of earnings from the sale of tickets was Rs. 7,42,946 only.

(e) The Railways earnings from the special parking lots made at Safdarjung, Patel Nagar and Brar Square was Rs. 7,308/- only.

(f) The earnings are part of overall Railway earnings.

Decline in Exports

1580. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a decline of 17 per cent in export, as reported in the Times of India dated the 4th August, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures Government have taken or propose to take to boost up the export and compete in the world market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir. There was a decline in the month of May, 1998;

(b) The exports have been affected due to a general slow down in world trade, expecially recession in many countries in South East Asia, japan & Germany, domestic supply constraints in some sectors such as agricultural commodities and barriers faced in markets of European Union;

(c) A number of steps have already been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and sim-plificaiton of procedures, and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. A Cabinet Committee on Foreign Trade has also been set up to review export performance.

Trade Relations with China

1581. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the action taken to maintain trade relations with China vigor ously?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): Maintaining the trade relations with China is a continuous effort. The relationship is based on the bilateral trade agreement between the two nations. Joint Groups on Economic relations and trade, Science and Technology, besides Working Groups on Coal and Steel established at the Government level meet periodically. Meeting of the Indo-China Joint Business Council help promote close ties between entrepreneurs of the two countries.

Awareness of each others' capabilities and achievements in various industrial and technological spheres is gained through increased participation in trade fairs and exhibitions held in the respective countries. The first India Technological Exhibition was organized in Beijing in 1997. A Chinese Commodities Fair was organised in New Delhi in December 1997, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic cooperation. A trade delegation from India participated in the recently held International Chemical Industry Fair, 1998, held in September. 1998, in Beijing. Another high level Official-cum-trade delegation from the Soyabean Processors Association of India visited China in September, 1998 for promoting exports of India soy-ameal to China.

India now figures among the top twenty trading partners of China and is China's largest trading partner in South
Asia

Action Against Export Defaulters

1582. DR ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken against the export defaulters for not fulfilling their export obligations; and